

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, as we debate this so-called middle-class tax cut, there is going to be a lot of talk about just who is the middle class.

Well, I do not know if the people in my district meet your definition of middle class, but I do know that they keep getting caught in the middle.

My constituents are caught in the middle of a fight within the ranks of the Republican party about whether to cut taxes for the super rich or just the very rich.

My constituents are caught in the middle of two failures of phony fiscal policy from the GOP, trickle-down economics in the 1980's and its sequel in the 1990's, two budget busters that are squeezing working families like a vise.

And others in my district are caught in the middle because they are treated like pawns in this game, as the Republicans take money from education, nutrition, and health care to finance tax cuts for those who are already faring quite well.

We can disagree about who is the true middle class, but it is clear that those who work hard to get their families through the next day have a lot more class than those in this House who are simply trying to get through the next election.

TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TIGHTEN ITS BELT

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is always interesting to listen to my friends, the liberals on the other side of the aisle, and they do some very creative writing as we just heard from the preceding speaker.

As we begin to debate this issue of tax cuts, I think it is important to keep one fact uppermost in our minds: Those who send their hard-earned money to Washington did not cause this deficit. Those liberal big spenders who sat and dominated this Chamber for so long, those are the folks who caused this deficit. It is an obvious but overlooked point.

So when the liberals say they cannot afford to cut taxes, what they are really saying is they will not cut spending.

This whole debate is evidence of a disturbing mind-set on the part of the liberals from the other side of the aisle which assumes all the money in America belongs to this Government and that this Government needs the money much more than America's families. Friends, it is the American people who need tax relief. They have been tightening their belts for years while the Government has continued its big-spending ways.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the taxpayer got a break, and it is time this Government tightened its belt.

STOP SENDING CASH TO RUSSIA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon has pleaded. They have begged. They have even offered Russia special projects. And Russia said, "Nyet. Forget it."

Russia will sell nuclear reactors to Iran. Now, think about it, Russia has already sold submarines to Iran. Now Russia is going to sell nuclear reactors to Iran.

Tell me, since when do these Communists-turned democrats deserve all of our American cash?

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Last I heard, Mr. Speaker, they still had in Russia missiles pointed at New York.

Now look here. If Boris Yeltsin is now the new George Washington over there, I am a fashion leader, and I should be on the cover of GQ.

The bottom line is we have too many experts at the Pentagon drinking vodka with Boris. Either that, or they are smoking dope. But, if Congress wants to save money, stop sending cash to Russia.

Think about it.

LET US CUT TAXES THIS WEEK

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Good morning. My name is STEVE, and I am a tax cutter. I never realized I had a problem with this compulsion when I was back home in the real world, but, when I landed inside the beltway, I knew I was in real trouble.

I had always believed that we should let working Americans keep more of their hard-earned paychecks. I had always thought we ought to give senior citizens in this country a break. I thought I was normal, but then I came to Washington, and the liberals and the bureaucrats have tried to show me the error of my ways. They have tried to convince me that the money I always thought belonged to the taxpayers really belongs to the Federal Government. They tried to convince me that bureaucrats know best, more better than what the working men and women of this country do. They think that bureaucrats are smarter than the folks back home.

Well, that is baloney. Maybe being a tax cutter is not so bad. In fact, dog-gone it, I am proud to be a tax cutter.

Let us cut taxes like the Republicans want to do this week.

GAYS IN THE MILITARY

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged when the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York concluded on Thursday that the core of the Defense Department's don't-ask, don't-tell policy is unconstitutional. Judge Nickerson is right.

At least twice on this floor in the previous Congress, Mr. Speaker, I stated my belief that the ban and the Clinton administration's don't-ask, don't-tell policy violate the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment, the rights of free speech and assembly under the first amendment and the ninth amendment right of privacy.

This debate is still far from over. Over the weekend, Speaker GINGRICH said the House will again review this policy. He is making a mistake on the merits and on the politics. On the merits he is wrong because reinstating the ban is unconstitutional. On the politics he is wrong because the momentum of the first 100 days will quickly unravel as divisive social issues, like the gay ban, abortion rights, and school prayer are revisited.

Mr. Speaker, it is not easy to look the Joint Chiefs in the face and tell them how we think they should organize their forces and enforce the military chain of command. But it is time to recognize that gays and lesbians have always been a part of the military and that they have performed their duties with diligence, patriotism, and honor.

REPUBLICAN TAX CUTS ARE PRO- SENIORS, PRO-JOBS, AND PRO- FAMILY

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there are three parts of the Contract With America that are very important to the American people. Already passed, \$180 billion for deficit reduction, \$190 billion for spending cuts, and now we have tax cuts for individuals, families, seniors, and small business.

A key goal to move money and power out of Washington and back to families and communities, Americans are better off making their own decisions rather than having Federal bureaucrats making decisions for them.

The tax relief plan lets families keep more of their money to save for education, a first home, long-term care or retirement, lets small businesses invest without being penalized, and it will repeal the unfair Clinton tax on senior citizens' Social Security benefits and allow seniors to make more than \$11,280 without deducting from their Social Security. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the tax cut will reduce the deficit, stimulate investment, and create jobs.

Let us pass the bill.